

not be covered: AIDS/HIV, alcohol or drug dependence, cancer, COPD, connective tissue disorder, Crohn's disease, diabetes, emphysema, heart attack or stroke, hepatitis, inpatient emotional or mental illness, organ or tissue transplant, or ulcerative colitis. Just in case maybe you survived that litmus test, it does go on to say: "This list is not all inclusive; other conditions may apply."

That is what health insurance looked like before 2010: People who, in good faith, were paying premium dollars for coverage, whether they were individuals, small businesses, or large employers, suddenly found, with the fine print back in those days, medical underwriting was excluding people from getting the coverage for the health insurance they thought they were buying.

Also, the rude awakening of people who had insurance suddenly having their bills reversed—again, in good faith, depending on insurance companies—to pay for an operation or for a hospitalization or a doctor's visit.

This country turned the page in 2010. It is time to, once and for all, say that those practices are a thing of the past.

Our bill this week, H.R. 986, will restore those patient protections which the Trump administration's executive order, last October, reversed. Hopefully, the people in this Chamber will listen to the universal support for these patient protections all across the country, Republicans and Democrats—the polling shows it is off the charts—and support this bill and block this executive order which would turn the clock back for American patients and America's healthcare system.

#### HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN "ODIE" SLOCUM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MITCHELL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding member of our community and our military on his retirement. For more than 35 years, Brigadier General John "Odie" Slocum served our country, most recently as the commander of the 127th Wing at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Michigan's 10th District, a post he held from November 2014 until his retirement this past weekend.

General Slocum's career of more than 35 years and 4,100 flight hours began in 1984 when he received his Air Force commission through East Carolina University's ROTC program. After receiving his wings, Odie served his 8 years of Active Duty as an F-4 Phantom and F-16 pilot and then served as an instructor at bases in both Georgia and Arizona.

In 1992 he joined the Arizona Air National Guard where he served in a variety of Operations Group and headquarters-staff positions, many related to F-16 flight training, before taking over as Arizona Air National Guard's 162nd Fighter Wing's chief of safety

and squadron commander. During his tenure in Arizona, he created a new Air National Guard maintenance training curriculum, worked to increase mental health and suicide prevention resources in the Air National Guard, initiated a DOD-wide midair collision avoidance program, and more. Because of these actions, in 2013, Odie was inducted into the Air Force Safety Hall of Fame.

After 1 year as the Inspector General of the Air National Guard based at Joint Base Andrews, in 2014 Slocum was promoted to brigadier general and assumed command of the 127th Wing and Selfridge Air National Guard Base, in my home district. It is home to 1,700 airmen operating both the A-10 Warthog and KC-135 Stratotanker, as well as host to more than 45 tenant organizations from all branches of the military and numerous DHS organizations. Nearly 4,500 Active Duty, Guard, Reserve, and civilian personnel call Selfridge Air National Guard Base home.

Selfridge is unique, with diverse needs due to its many missions, and General Slocum has been an exceptional leader of Selfridge and our community. Under Slocum's leadership, the 127th Wing earned the Spaatz Trophy, presented to the top flying wing in the Air National Guard; earned an Air Force Meritorious Unit Award; and celebrated milestone anniversaries of the base, 100 years, and the 127th Wing's two flying units, the 107th Fighter Squadron, 100 years, and the 171st Air Refueling Squadron. Further, last year, the 127th Wing was named Macomb County Economic Development Partner of the Year, and Slocum was inducted into the Macomb County Hall of Fame.

I have had the honor to work with General Slocum since before I joined Congress, and I have greatly appreciated our professional relationship, as well as the personal friendship that has grown the last 5 years. In our nearly weekly phone calls, Odie has worked with me to ensure I know what is going on at the base, I am aware of the base's needs, and we work together to address the needs of the men and women who serve in Selfridge.

It is extremely clear Odie cares deeply about Selfridge, the men and women he commands, Michigan, and our Nation. We are all extremely grateful for his decades of dedication to our Nation.

While I will miss having him commanding Selfridge, I know General Slocum will continue to remain heavily involved in our community to make our place a great place to live. On behalf of our community and our Nation, I wish to extend him all the best in retirement, and I thank him for his many years of exemplary service.

#### EQUAL RIGHTS TO TRIBAL TRUST LANDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government has an obligation to equally protect the rights of all 573 federally recognized Tribal nations.

Since the passage of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, those rights have included the ability to have lands placed into trust. The intent of the original Indian Reorganization Act was clear: to restore and to protect Tribal homelands for all sovereign Tribal nations.

Congress clearly did not intend to limit this right based on the date of a Tribe's recognition. After all, Tribal nations did not get to decide when the Federal Government would give them the recognition they were due. But in 2009, the Supreme Court ruling in a case of *Carcieri v. Salazar* called into question whether Tribes recognized after 1934 should have equal rights to trust land.

Tribal leaders united to ask Congress for legislation to fix this problem, to right this wrong, and I am honored to have worked hand in hand in a non-partisan fashion with my good friend, Congressman TOM COLE, to lead that effort.

Tomorrow the House will vote on H.R. 375, a clean legislative fix that is necessary to ensure that we are fulfilling one of our country's most sacred obligations. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support a clean Carcieri fix.

#### THE GOLDEN SPIKE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, on May 10, 1869, a Salt Lake paper wrote that the people of Utah—the great pioneers of the Rocky Mountains—received with acclamation the glad news of the completion of the mighty work to which as a people they had contributed their part; and hand in hand with the great circle of States and territories, now rejoicing in union over the event, did thank God for its accomplishments.

They were referencing the Golden Spike which had been driven completing the first transcontinental railroad.

That date, May 10, will forever stand as a tribute to the men of vision who foresaw the potential of an empire stretching from coast to coast in the United States, bound together not only by iron rails but also by a common interest.

From the time of the Civil War when this project started until three or four decades later when the railroad system was completed, America changed. In 1860, the United States was third in the world in production of wheat. When the railroad was completed, we were first. In 1860, England produced three times as much coal as the United States. When the railroad was complete, not only did we lead the world, we were producing 110 million tons of coal more

than Great Britain. During the Civil War, England was producing six times as much steel as we were, but when the railroad was complete, 42 percent of all steel was being produced in the United States—much of that going to the railroad.

During the Civil War, there were only 30,000 miles of railroad track in America. But when the system was complete, there was 167,000 miles crisscrossing this country. Today we still have more railroad track than any other country, 39 percent more than the number two country of Russia, and more than the rest of the top 10, which include in order China, India, Canada, Germany, Australia, Argentina, and France and Belgium combined, even more than nation number 139 on that list, the country of Lichtenstein, which has all of 5½ miles of railroad track.

The railroad made our economic explosion possible. The railroad made us an industrial giant. Before the railroad came, it was difficult to move goods or even transport people. But once the spike was driven, that was the kickstart to what we were going to do. Now, 150 years later, we are celebrating the coming of the Central Pacific's Jupiter with the Union Pacific's Engine 119 meeting together in Utah's backyard. The railroads still move goods, and they also provide passenger service.

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I still remember as a kid my parents taking me to the Ogden train depot for a trip somewhere into Idaho, probably Boise. I was in my Sunday best. As we went up to the observation car, I could look out and see the beauty of this America passing us by.

It is an American national historical park. It is a place where the American story is without equal.

In LaRue County, Kentucky, there is the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park.

In Seneca, New York, there is the Women's Rights National Historical Park.

In Ohio, you can visit the Dayton Aviation National Historical Park where you can walk into the bicycle shop where Orville and Wilbur Wright first started to conquer the skies.

The Golden Spike National Historical Park is going to recognize in Promontory Summit in Utah, the place where the world changed, where not only was history made that day, but also the Herculean efforts of those who organized this, as well as the immigrant manpower of Irish coming from the east and Chinese from the west, who provided the muscle to accomplish this project.

A national historical park is accomplished by an act of Congress, but the Spike 150 Commission, chaired by Doug Foxley and Spencer Stokes, has mobilized a literal army of history lovers who will host a series of events befitting this historic moment.

It has already started with a horse parade in Brigham City, a hoedown in

Tremonton, and a country church service on Sunday. It will also culminate this Friday when we invite all of you to come to Utah to see the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Golden Spike, which encouraged the pioneering of both the spirit and economy of America. When that Golden Spike was driven, America welcomed a new frontier.

#### HONORING LINNIE "PAPA" DARDEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Linnie "Papa" Darden, who is being honored at the Legends, Leaders, and Life Well Lived Award luncheon on May 9.

Well deserving of this honor, he should be an inspiration to us all about how to constantly strive to make the world a better place to live. Mr. Darden has dedicated much of his life to young people, teaching deaf children in Ethiopia and counseling teenagers on life skills and drug education here in the United States.

At the young age of 80, he earned a Ph.D. in religious counseling with a thesis on at-risk youth.

Along with serving youth at home and abroad, he served in our Nation's Armed Forces.

I couldn't be prouder to have him in the First Congressional District of Georgia. I thank Mr. Darden for his service, both in the military and in our communities. He continues to truly exemplify a life well lived.

#### HONORING RICHARD ECKBURG

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Richard "Dick" Eckburg, who is being honored at the Legends, Leaders, and Life Well Lived Award luncheon on May 9.

Well deserving of this honor, he should be an inspiration to us all about how to constantly strive to make the world a better place to live.

A Korean war veteran, Dick worked at UPS for 32 years, eventually becoming the vice president of public affairs. Since then, he has dedicated countless time and resources to numerous charitable organizations around the Savannah area, including the Telfair Museum, the Lucas Theatre, the Bethesda Academy, and many more.

Dick's work with each of these organizations, along with that of his wonderful wife, Judy, has changed the face of Savannah and improved the lives of many in our community.

I couldn't be prouder to have him in the First Congressional District of Georgia. I thank Dick for his service in the military and especially for his service to our community. He continues to truly exemplify a life well lived.

#### HONORING DR. LES WILKES

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Les

Wilkes, who is being honored at the Legends, Leaders, and Life Well Lived Award luncheon on May 9.

Well deserving of this honor, he should be an inspiration to us all about how to constantly strive to make the world a better place to live.

Dr. Wilkes practiced orthopedic surgery in Savannah for over 40 years. Before that, he served in the United States Navy as an orthopedic surgeon.

After his retirement, he partnered with Hospice Savannah to provide photographs for the clients. He continues his work with our veterans by serving in Honor Flights, escorting veterans to Washington, D.C.

Dr. Wilkes is also the unofficial photographer for Wesley United Methodist Church in downtown Savannah where he and his wife, Ge-Juan, and their son, Lee, and his family have worshipped for many years.

I couldn't be prouder to have him in the First Congressional District of Georgia. I thank Dr. Wilkes for his service, both in the military and in our communities. He continues to truly exemplify a life well lived.

#### RECOGNIZING SAVANNAH COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Savannah College of Art and Design on its 40th anniversary.

In 1978, an elementary school teacher, Ms. Paula Wallace, wanted to start a college in her hometown dedicated to the arts. Beginning with 71 students, SCAD now has over 55,000.

The school has four campuses, in Savannah, Atlanta, Hong Kong, and Lacoste, France. It has countless alumni who have gone on to successful careers in photography, abstract art, film, interior design, and so much more.

In addition to providing college students with an exceptional art-centered education, they have given back to our community 10 times over, hosting art festivals, public concerts, and fashion shows.

Locations important to our city's history and culture have been restored by its students: the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home, the Victory Drive corridor, and the Massie Heritage Center.

I thank everyone at SCAD—the faculty, administrators, and students alike—for their contributions to our area. As a native Savannahian, I have always said that SCAD was the catalyst for the renovation of downtown Savannah.

I thank Paula Wallace for bringing SCAD to Savannah and leading its success over the last four decades, and I congratulate it on its 40th anniversary.

#### UNDERSTANDING RISKS OF U.S. MILITARY INTERVENTION IN VENEZUELA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ) for 5 minutes.